Gramin PCO booth in UP

212. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of educated unemployed youth have applied for Gramin PCO booth at Mau and Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so; the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise;

(c) the criteria adopted by Government for allotment/installation of PCO booths among these persons;

(d) whether Government are aware that the concerned officials are not allotting the said booths and if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) whether Government would issue any instructions to the authorities for quick disposal of all pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of applications received in Mau and Azamgarh districts during the last two years are as under:—

YEAR	MAU	AZAMGARH
2000-2001	293	350
2001-2002	320	141

(c) PCO booths are allotted liberally to all the eligible applicants as per their registration subject to technical feasibility.

(d) and (e) Sir, all applicants in Mau telecom district have been allotted PCO booths. However, 25 applications are pending in Azamgarh telecom district as on date due to technical non-feasibility of the area. Instructions have been issued to the concerned authority to clear the pending applications by making the areas feasible at the earliest possible.